Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The people of the state of South Dakota have been fortunate to be the recipients of the endeavors of a special class of individuals devoted to making our state number one in the field of service delivery; and,

Whereas, James W. Ellenbecker has dedicated his life to serving the citizens of South Dakota during the course of his career with the State Planning Agency, Department of Labor, and Department of Social Services; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker has served the Department of Social Services for 25 years administering one of the largest and most complex agencies in state government and, in doing so, has implemented a multitude of initiatives to benefit the citizens of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker's oversight and leadership of South Dakota's 1988 Elderly Initiative helped improve the lives of elderly South Dakotans and their families, and his courage and conviction to make the long-term care system in South Dakota more responsive, efficient, and cost-effective provided more opportunities for the elderly to remain in their homes; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker's leadership and commitment to welfare reform helped improve the lives of hundreds of single parents in South Dakota by fostering personal responsibility and independence; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker's guidance and direction in making absent parents financially responsible for their children, has created one of the most effective child support programs in the country for the past 10 years; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's food stamp program is the best in the nation because of Secretary Ellenbecker's commitment to excellence; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker's concern for the health and safety of children has fostered the development of quality child care across South Dakota, and his advocacy in the area of child abuse and neglect has resulted in increased capacity for Child Protection Services to support the safety and well-being of children, to improve family functioning, and to promote permanency for children; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker's diligent management of South Dakota's medical services program has given more than 67,000 children access to health care; and,

Whereas, Secretary Ellenbecker's exemplary leadership throughout his 34 years of service to the state of South Dakota shall continue to inspire those he leaves behind after his retirement on April 8, 2005:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 8, 2005, as

JAMES W. ELLENBECKER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his co-workers, family, and friends in congratulating him on this well-earned retirement and wishing him a long, healthy, peaceful and enjoyable retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State